

REMARKS

The Examiner's recognition of Applicants' invention by the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 32 and 33 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 1-30, withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement, are cancelled, subject to Applicants' right to pursue them in a divisional application.

Claim 31 is amended to clarify that the sensing material comprises a metal from the group consisting of platinum, rhodium and palladium, and that the protective coating is an aluminide or silicide compound that contains the metal.

Claim 32 is amended to clarify that the additional material is yttrium or zirconium.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 as indefinite.

Claim 31 is amended to clarify that the sensing material is platinum, rhodium or palladium, and that the protective coating is an aluminide or silicide compound that also contains platinum, rhodium, or palladium.

Claim 32 is amended to clarify that the additional material is yttrium or zirconium.

In view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection based on Gerblinger et al.

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States

Patent No. 5,430,428, issued to Gerblinger et al. in 1995.

Gerblinger et al. describes a temperature sensor, in which the sensing metal is coated with a ceramic layer and a glass layer. Metal silicide is listed as one of several suitable materials for the ceramic layer. However, Gerblinger et al. is silent as to a particular compound. More specifically, nothing in Gerblinger et al. would suggest a compound containing a platinum group metal. In contrast, Applicants' invention forms a protective coating containing an aluminide or silicide compound of a platinum group metal. Gerblinger et al. does not disclose a protective coating formed of platinum-group metal compound, and so does not anticipate, or even suggest, Applicants' invention.

Claim 31 is directed to Applicants' planar temperature sensor that includes a sensing material and a protective coating. In accordance with the claim, the sensing material comprises platinum, rhodium or palladium. Also in accordance with the claim, the protective coating is an aluminide or silicide compound containing the platinum, rhodium or palladium. Gerblinger et al. does not point to a protective coating formed of platinum, rhodium or palladium compounds, and so does not teach or suggest Applicants' temperature sensor in claim 31.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims based upon Gerblinger et al. be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claim 31 be allowed.

Conclusion

Claims 32 and 33 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is believed that claim 31 is now allowable. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn, and that all claims be allowed.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", is written over a horizontal line.

Douglas D. Fekete

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